The National News Letter

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If you had to miss the "commencement" dinner given to Harry Ballantyne at the Granite Club in Toronto by some of his many friends, then you missed a most delightful evening, and a thrilling challenge. Following Jack Beaton's "academic" review of Mr. Ballantyne's early career, Dick Davis arose as a "business man" and with equally keen darts outlined our guest's profile during the more recent years. On behalf of those assembled, and a host of others right across from shore to shore, Harry's old friend Billy Lind presented him with a magnificent volume of bound letters congratulating him and wishing him well. This was also accompanied by a substantial cheque and a big box of flowers for Mrs. Ballantyne. In reply Harry admitted that he had been deeply touched, but his address was not touching. It was striking. It was gracious and heart warming with his thanks, interesting and humorous with his reminiscence and forcefully challenging with his analysis of things as they are, and his picture of what is yet to be. It was quite apparent to all that Harry Ballantyne will rapidly become one of our most promising laymen. Naturally enough Russell Kelley centred up the head table. In addition to calling on several other speakers, including Colonel Birks, Charlie Bauckham and Bill Hastie, and introducing the special guests, he struck in a few shafts of his own which he poised, sharpened and threw with sure and smiling aim. There were numerous incidents of great good fellowship as old friends were gathered for this fine occasion. It should have been attended by every junior secretary entering the profession.

Each of those six stories in Foreign Flashes (11) is a thrilling glimpse into our work in other lands. Remember to relate them when you get the chance. If you want good stories ...there they are.

Highbrow leader at Winnipeg Conference - "What we are discussing is really a problem of integration"
Voice from the back-"What's integration"?
Another voice (sounding like Fred Gamble) in quick reply - "That's a fellow at the border that won't let you through".

What does your Association do on Sunday? Bill Wolter of Sherbrooke wants to know. He is particularly interested in Sunday program if it is "specificallyreligious" - if you know what I mean. We are all interested. Will you drop the News Letter a paragraph that could be added in, summarized or quoted? Thanks. Bill is watching for the story. I am listening for something from Peterborough, Galt, Saint John, Moncton, Brandon, or Niagara.

Caught by the News Letter in "The Old Guard News" (Nov., 1938):

> The article in a recent copy of The Forum entitled "What's Wrong with the Y", by James V. Taylor, will probably cause considerable comment on the part of some people who do not know the background of the writer. Mr. Taylor has worked at a good many jobs but has not stayed with any one very long. He was a recipient of the charity of one YMCA and later was given a job on the front counter, which he held for two years without meriting a promotion. This was the extent of his 'Y' official connection and his failure to make good probably was the cause of the article being written. A good deal of his article was copied verbatim from the Year Book but with his own interpretation added. It ought not to do any great harm.

Norville Luck is smart. He gets your attention with his "YMCA News". It is probably setting a new pace for the whole Island. "Y-Knot" catches my eye as a snappy name for a club ... Y-Knot Club.

They make an interesting split in Recreation section at the School for Leaders at Sherbrooke. Non-active games constitutes series "A", and active games series "B". You can readily imagine some leaders preferring training in only one of these. Bill Wolter will you please describe the interest in each for us later on?

To show how tough they are in Kitchener they carry a fibre membership card that won't break or bend or wear out. It is a real utility job. If your membership would appreciate such a card, write to Lou Buckley.

Look what Nelson McEwen threw on the News Letter's desk:

Maritime Employed Officers had a "lively" conference at Sackville under the gavel of Norville Luck. New officers of this important group are: President, Herb Morton of Yarmouth; Vice-President, Ralph Smith of Moncton; Secretary-Treasurer, Earle Wilson of Halifax.

Bert Davies, Maritime Governor of Y's Men, is doing a masterly job. Has recently visited all clubs in the Maritimes -- which by the way is regarded by International as the strongest region in Y'sdom.

Community 'Y' at Fredericton had so much activity last year they were asked to vacate their quarters because of the noise and traffic. Now in new rooms which were recently opened with much éclat.

For a town with no active Y.M.C.A., Summerside, P.E.I., is kept 'Y' conscious by a grand Y's Men's Club. Some day soon there will be active work there again.

Acting as the Secretary-Treasurer of the Canadian Camping Association I had two dandy meetings, one in Halifax and one in Charlottetown, of camping folks including all kinds -- Y.M., Y.W., Guides, Scouts, Fresh Air, and even the R.C's.

Shaw of Halifax is not Boys' Secretary but is having quite a good time in his "spare" moments with credit unions, etc.

Abe Gregg at the U.S. Council office is working hard on two new publications, one on Decentralized Work and the other on Neighborhood Groups. Watch for these.

George Corwin, U. S. National Hi-Y Secretary, finds as we do in Canada that H-Y Marches On is being used r i g h t across the U.S. for programme purposes. Hi-Y in the U.S.A. is definitely on the "up". In Canada and the U.S. there are now 6500 clubs with over 200,000 members.

Saw Beckelman in New York. Sends regards to his Canadian friends. He was in Ray Bingham's office (Ray is Metro Boys' Secretary for New York City) so was carrying out his own principles of co-operation.

E.M. Robinson, grand old man of Boys' Work (the only retired B.W.S. to my knowledge) still going strong. Believes in Canada and Canadian youth as strongly as ever and quite delighted we again have a National Boys' Work Secretary. Had a great party at his house of the foreign students at Springfield.

"Thanks, Nelson"

Cliff Schell has just returned from an extended trip in the West. If he were chatting with "YOU" he would scatter interesting snapshots like this: Ev. Cameron is away to a good start in Lethbridge, as evidenced by the success of his campaign ...The new East End Boys' Club got a good press notice in Calgary. New staff fitting together well. Campaign a success...In Edmonton busy program in all areas. Campaign now within $100 of objective, nearly $2000 more than 1937. Reg. Rose well established..Jim Johnston from Brandon Leaders' Corps has a good gym program going in Field. Manley Chisholm the best-known man in town...Billy Veith now acting-secretary in Revelstoke is the big membership getter in the country-wide RR Membership Campaign. Howard Trueman, local boy breaking into physical field. Heroic battle being put up to provide town with Y facilities...Every kid in New Westminster is using the 'Y' for physical education through school relationship policy... Campaign results away beyond the objective. Frank Paulding is recognized as the outstanding financial organizer for the Chest and organizations within it. Fine lay leadership developing in swimming program...Regina has a new floor in the gym, the old floor top providing a new surface for social rooms...Saskatoon Leaders' Corps still giving first-class leadership to every group, and finance campaign a big success...Brandon Association co-operating with other social agencies on the problem of unemployed youth...Largest boys' membership and extension service in Canada seems to be in Winnipeg, where Cliff's eye was caught by businessmen weight-lifters and the liquid soap dispensers that they use in the shower-room. ...Y giving fine leadership in the cooperative enterprises of Schreiber on all youth projects...White River has a newly established monthly social bringing together everybody in town.....Chauncey Depew giving leadership to a live Youth Council which has sent a delegate from Chapleau to Queen's Park on Youth Service Problems...Fort William dormitory filled to capacity and practically carrying the Y load...If Art McPhee is to provide any more bowling in Kenora, they will have to start rolling two down the same alley.